MANCHESTER ROYAL INSTITUTION.—The annual meeting of this institution was held on Monday in last week. The report stated that the greatest number attending the exhibition this season, in any one week, was 936. The wish expressed by a considerable number of the leading artists, that it should be held in the latter part of the year, after the close of the Royal Academy exhibition, and their statement of their intention to contribute if such change was made, had determined the council to hold the next exhibition during the autumn. The Heywood prizes had been distributed. The council did not consider any architectural design as of sufficient merit and importance to deserve a prize, but a "Design for a Civic Building," by Mr. Solomons, was thought worthy of commendation. Mr. J. A. Hammersley, principal of the Manchester School of Design, having presented to the institution a painting of "Mountains and Clouds; a Scene from the top of Loughrigg," had been elected the first associate. It had been estimated that no less than 100,000 persons had passed through the rooms of the institution in four days, to view the statuettes of the Peel testimonial.

THE ORDNANCE SURVEY OF SCOTLAND.—The appeal to the Government by the British Association in favour of a sufficient Parliamentary grant to insure, within a reasonable time, the completion of the ordnance survey of Scotland has been presented to Lord John Russell by the Marquis of Breadalbane and Sir Roderick Murchison, and backed by the Dukes of Buccleuch, Roxburghe, and Richmond, Lords Eglinton, Cawdor, Minto, and many other Scottish proprietors. A select committee to inquire and report has been moved for in the Commons, and agreed to. Mr. Charteris, in moving for this committee, remarked, that although the Scottish survey was begun in 1809, only 1-16th, or the county of Wigton, was yet published. On the English survey, 702,000*l.* had been expended; on the Irish, 890,000*l.*; and on the Scottish, only 66,000*l.*: so that "justice to Scotland" now demanded some attention to its interests on this subject. It is to be hoped the ordnance will now shortly have something else to do than play mischief amongst the civil surveyors from want of work of a more legitimate kind to do.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BRASSEY.—At the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill, on Wednesday, in last week, an elegant banquet was given to Mr. Brassey, the railway contractor, by about 200 of his employers and coadjutors, including a number of the chief engineers, directors, and other officials of various railways. Mr. Meeking, one of Mr. Brassey's workmen, presented the testimonial, which consisted of a silver gilt salver, nearly 3 feet in diameter, surmounted with a border of oak leaves, the disc ornamented with twenty-four raised medallions, twelve of them enamelled portraits of railway engineers,—G. Stephenson, R. Stephenson, Brunel, Locke, Cubitt, Bruff, Errington, Rendall, J. Cubitt, Biddell, Robertson, and Deekray,—the other twelve representing, also in enamel, some of the most important engineering works achieved on the great trunk lines. In addition to this testimonial, the presentation included full-length portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Brassey. In all, the cost of this presentation is said to have been about 3,000*l.*

DONATIONS FOR CHURCH BUILDING.—Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, and Buxton, the eminent brewers, have placed at the disposal of the committee of the Church Extension Fund the munificent sum of 1,000*l.* towards the erection and endowment of the church of St. Thomas, at Lambeth. Sir Edward North Buxton, Bart., M.P., has given 500*l.* additional, and Robert Hanbury, Esq., 500*l.* additional, for the same purpose. Messrs. Barclay and Perkins, the brewers, have given the sum of 1,000*l.* towards the Southwark fund for building churches and chapels. Lord R. Grosvenor has given 2,000*l.* towards the erection of a church at Norwood; the Archbishop of Canterbury, 3,000*l.* for a church and schools at Croydon; the Bishop of London 3,000*l.* towards new churches in the metropolis; Mr. Charles Freake, of Brompton, 5,000*l.* towards a new church in Onslow-square, Brompton; the Rev. John Fletcher has given 1,000*l.* towards a new church at Paddington; Mr. C. J. Bevan, the banker, 1,000*l.*; Sir W. R. Farquhar, 1,000*l.*; Mr. R. C. L. Bevan, 500*l.*; Mr. B. Shaw, 500*l.*; Mr. John Deacon, 500*l.*; Mr. J. Labouchere, 500*l.*, towards St. Andrew's Church, Lambeth. The Solicitor-General has given 1,000*l.* towards a church in Palmer's Village, Westminster. Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P. has given 1,000*l.* towards St. Thomas's Church, Lambeth. "A Friend," per the Bishop of London, has given 5,000*l.* towards new churches to be erected in the metropolis. "A Friend" of the incumbent has given 5,666*l.* for a new church in Lough-borough-road, Denmark-hill. The Rev. C. Kemble has given 1,200*l.* towards a new church at Stockwell. Mr. Henry Vallance has given 1,000*l.* towards a new church in Kensington. Mr. William Cotton has given 500*l.* towards new churches in the metropolis. The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have given 500*l.* towards a new church in Newington. Mr. Edward Wigan, 500*l.*, and C. B. Young, 500*l.* towards a new church in St. Matthew's district, Denmark-hill.—*Morning Advertiser.*

MAP OF BRADFORD WANTED.—The Bradford council have got their Improvement Act, but have decided to do without the map which is absolutely requisite to enable them to do any thing with the Act for which they have striven. They have swallowed their pig, but choke upon the tail. They have sunk their well, as the *Bradford Observer* remarks, and fixed their pump, but they grudge the expense of a handle. At a recent meeting they formally refused to procure a map, either that of the Ordnance survey or any other. The cost of the former, it is said, would be 700*l.* less than the cost (2,000*l.*) of a new survey. The paper quoted points to Leeds, where for want of proper previous levels a large sum of money expended in the important matter of draining has been absolutely flung away. The corollary, we trust, will not be flung away upon the Bradford council.

THICKNESS OF PARTY WALLS.—At the Birmingham County Court, on the 27th ult., an action was brought to recover 2*l.* 10*s.*, as damages done to a garden by the fall of a party wall, this arising, as was alleged, from the insecure nature of its construction. Mr. Cutts, a respectable surveyor, had inspected the wall, which was, as so frequently occurs, but a 4½-inch erection, and, in his judgment, such walls were too slight for their purpose, however well they might be put together. After hearing, the judge said it was evident the wall was not sufficiently strong. Plaintiff would have a verdict for 30*s.*, damages to garden.

THE DESIGNS ACT EXTENSION BILL.—This Bill has at length been read a third time in the Commons. It has undergone some "amendments," however. On the motion for going into committee, to the surprise no less than the sorrow of some who were present, *Mr. Arkwright* opposed its progress, and moved its consideration "that day six months." As immediately remarked by Mr. Labouchere, "Of all the members of the House—remembering the illustrious name which the hon. gentleman bore—he was the last from whom he should have expected opposition to a measure for protecting ingenuity in inventions, whether these inventions emanated from a foreigner or an Englishman." "Not so fast," will *others* doubtless remark: "it *was* to be expected, from those very antecedents, that one who had benefited so vastly of old by the plunder of *other* men's brains from the very want of such a protective Act, should desire that a state of things which had worked so well to his own hereditary glory and advantage, should continue unamended." As for ourselves, however, not even a natural indignation at such an opposition from such a quarter will induce us to appropriate so much severity of resentment as our own. Nevertheless, whatever be the faults or shortcomings of the "Designs Act Extension Bill,"—considering its object,—considering the benefits already actually derived from that Act of which it is but an extension, we do think that it was not for an Arkwright, whichever view we take of the original merits of the personal question, to attempt to obstruct such a measure, more especially after it "had been," as Mr. Labouchere said, "maturely considered in the House of Lords, where, out of all the witnesses who had been examined on the subject, only one witness was opposed to the measure." Poor inventors, it is to be hoped, may now more safely exhibit their cherished inventions in the International Exhibition of Industry and Art. In most cases we trust there is still time, as we always hoped there would be, to do so.

IVY ON BUILDINGS.—A correspondent, "Oxoniensis," is anxious to have our opinion on the subject of ivy in its influence on buildings,—whether it be injurious or beneficial. By reference to the volume of THE BUILDER for 1847 (pages 319, 379, 391, &c.), it will be seen that this subject has been already mooted in our columns; but there still remains some doubt on the subject. Taking up the question started in THE BUILDER, the *Gardener's Chronicle* (as might be almost anticipated) advocates the cause of so ornamental a plant as ivy: so does "a rural dean;" but we should think there cannot be a doubt of the necessity for watchfulness and examination, to prevent the ivy from twining round copings, insinuating itself into joints or cracks, or concealing decay of any description, and so preventing its repair. Otherwise it would appear from the evidence that ivy really protects buildings from damp and decay, and as it is an elegant ornament, all that may really be requisite to guard against its injurious influence would appear to be a thorough examination occasionally, and a pruning of the ivy, or repairing of the wall, where it may be necessary.

MONSTER SHEET OF GLASS.—A large cast-iron plate has just been planed by the Hugh Foundry Company, which is intended for the Sutton Glass Works, to cast a monster sheet of plate-glass for the World's Exhibition. The dimensions are 16 feet 6 inches long, and 10 feet 4 inches broad; the plate itself being three inches thick, with plates to strengthen it underneath.

ASSESSMENT OF GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—On Wednesday in last week, at a meeting of the representative vestry of St. Pancras, Mr. G. W. F. Cook brought up a report of the assessment committee as to the assessment of the Great Northern and Blackwall and West India Dock Junction Railways. The report set forth that, with regard to the Great Northern line and terminus in St. Pancras, they had assessed the buildings, &c., as follows:—Offices, 2,340*l.*; goods department, 2,366*l.*; passenger station, 2,533*l.*; arrival and departure stations, 2,600*l.*; goods sheds, 3,736*l.*; coke and coal depot, 860*l.*; engine-house, 4,800*l.*; locomotive stock for railway, 3,993*l.*; boundary wall, 1,680*l.*; chairs, sleepers, rails, &c., 7,086*l.*; and other items; making a gross total assessment of 34,000*l.*, producing a gross rating of 1,700*l.*, and net 1,530*l.*: thirty-three acres of land, at 30*l.* per acre, 990*l.*; making the total net assessment of the railway to the parish, 2,603*l.* The report was ultimately adopted.

EXHIBITION OF MODERN FRENCH ART IN ENGLAND.—We are informed that arrangements are being made to bring all the works of modern French art now exposed in the Louvre, to this country for exhibition and sale!

MEMORIAL WINDOW.—A stained glass window was last week inserted in the north aisle of the nave of Norwich Cathedral to the memory of the late Professor Smyth. It contains three principal openings, surmounted with tracery. The glass is composed of three canopies in the chief openings, incorporating figures of saints. Beneath are scriptural subjects, viz. The Adoration of the Magi, the Crucifixion, and Christ amongst the Doctors. The tracery above the canopies, is filled with angels with scrolls, musical instruments, &c. &c. Along the bottom of the window runs the inscription. There is a marble slab beneath on which is a more detailed inscription. Mr. Warrington, of London, is the artist.

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